

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 1, line 19, and ending at page 2, line 5, as follows.

--~~Besides~~, Also known is a laminating treatment of a recorded image by transferring and laminating a transfer layer comprising a thermofusing resin layer provided on a base material onto a recorded image by heat and pressure adhesion to give waterproof, light resistance, glossiness, etc. ~~is also known~~. By having a UV absorbing agent contained in the transfer layer during this treatment, it is also possible to provide a sufficient light resistance to a print. Furthermore, by devising the material and constitution of this transfer layer, many laminating treatments of an image for simply and easily providing the wear resistance, solvent resistance, or the like by use of a resin have been worked out thus far.--

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 2, line 26, and ending at page 3, line 20, as follows.

--The principal problem of the construction comprising a transfer layer 1 and a base material film 2, as shown in FIGS. 6A, 6B and 6C, is the high cost. In a laminating treatment as mentioned above, a base material film comprising a heat resistant material is necessary for the base material film 2 on which a resin layer to be transferred by heat and pressure adhesion on the recorded side is formed. In this film, not only heat resistance but flatness sufficient for giving the glossiness of a protective film after the transfer is also required, thus resulting in high cost. The cost of this base material film 2

has a much greater weight than that of a transfer material remaining as the final product or that of coating of a transfer layer. Sufficiently stable and deformation-free raw ~~material~~ materials of a protective layer under conditions assumed for the thermal transfer ~~includes~~ include PET film, polyamide film, polyimide film and so on with thermal shrinkage controlled by preannealing, but any of them is a high-cost material. With such a constitution, a wide variety of applications truly low in cost and highly general in purposiveness are difficult to create.--

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 4, line 11, and ending at line 21, as follows.

--The third problem of this constitution lies in that the function of a protective layer transferred and formed varies with physical property, surface property, thickness or the like of base material films 2. This especially ~~affect~~ affects the glossiness, the adhesion of a film and the bubble releasability to a great extent. Originally, the transfer process of a glossy protective layer is a complicated process in which many parameters are involved, so that addition of such an influential variable factor is unfavorable to the stability of phenomena.--

Please amend the paragraphs starting at page 5, line 10, and ending at line 23, as follows.

--A process for forming images according to the present invention ~~comprises~~ includes the steps ~~of:~~ of conducting recording on a recording medium provided with an image-receiving ~~layer;~~ layer, providing thermoplastic resin particles onto the ~~above~~ image-receiving ~~layer;~~ layer, and heating and pressurizing the thermoplastic resin particles on the image-receiving layer.

Besides, an apparatus for forming images ~~comprises:~~ includes an ink-jet head for conducting recording on a recording ~~medium;~~ medium, providing means for providing thermoplastic particles to the recording medium on which recording has been ~~conducted;~~ conducted, and heating and pressurizing means for heating and pressurizing the thermoplastic particles to flatten.--

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 6, line 17, and ending at line 20, as follows.

--On example of an apparatus for forming images according to the present invention as shown in FIG. 1 ~~comprises:~~ includes an ink-jet recording section 1000; and a protective layer forming section 2000.--

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 7, line 19, and ending at line 26, as follows.

--Here, to smooth the surface of ~~he~~ the protective layer and improve the glossiness of images, a smooth surface on the side in contact with the thermoplastic resin particles is essential for the heating and pressurizing roller 107 as fixing means. To be specific, the surface roughness is preferably in the range of 3  $\mu\text{m}$  or less in terms of Ra and much preferably in the range of 1.5  $\mu\text{m}$  or less.--

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 7, line 27, and ending at page 8, line 10, as follows.

--In the present invention, because of directly determining the glossiness of the transfer protective layer (accordingly, of recorded images), the surface glossiness of rollers is an important factor. This glossiness depends on that of images required, but generally is preferably equal to or greater than 10% at an incident angle of 20° and is equal to or greater than 70% at an incident angle of 75°. In addition, when images with a slightly matted surface ~~is~~ are necessary, the surface of a roller may be made into such a slightly matted one.--

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 9, line 21, and ending at page 10, line 7, as follows.

--Furthermore, in the example mentioned above, the charged drum 101 plays a part of preliminary heating means also; however, the present invention is not limited to this embodiment but allows an IR heater, a halogen heater or the like to be provided separately as preliminary heating means. On performing heating to 80°C or lower by preliminary heating means and to 120°C or so at the fixation section, for example, a good result will be obtained. In other words, the provision of preliminary heating means removes moisture of the image-receiving layer and effectively prevents slowing down in temperature rise on account of the latent heat of moisture; thus heating can be easily conducted at the heating and pressurizing section (fixing section).--

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 10, line 18, and ending at page 11, line 1, as follows.

--FIGS. 2 to 4 are schematic illustrations exemplifying an ink-jet head usable in the ink-jet recording section 1000. The ink-jet head 31 is obtained by bonding glass, ceramics, plastics or the like provided with a groove 14 for the passage of ink to a thermal head 15 used for thermal recording. The thermal head 15 comprises a protective layer 16 formed of silicone oxide or the like, ~~an~~ aluminum electrodes 17-1 and 17-2, a heating resistor layer 18 formed of nichrome, a heat accumulating layer 19 and a highly radiative base plate 20 of aluminum or the like.--

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 11, line 2, and ending at line 16, as follows.

--When an electric signal is applied to the electrodes 17-1 and 17-2, the region designated with n of the thermal head 15 is rapidly heated, bubbles are generated in ink 21 contacting ~~herewith~~ therewith, and recording droplets 24 are ejected from orifices 22 toward a recording medium 60 by way of the pressure of the generated bubbles. FIG. 4 shows the outer appearance of a multi-head comprising an array of a plurality of heads shown in FIG. 2. This multi-head is prepared by bringing a glass plate 27 provided with a multi-groove 26 into contact with a thermal head 28 to bond together similar to that illustrated in FIG. 2. Incidentally, FIG. 2 is a sectional view of a head 31 taken along the ink flow route, while FIG. 3 is a sectional view taken along line 3-3 of FIG. 2.--

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 16, line 5, and ending at line 21, as follows.

--In an image-receiving layer comprising a mixture of such inorganic particles and an organic binder resin, it is desirable from the viewpoint of ink absorptivity not to make the diameter of inorganic particles too small. In many cases, inorganic particles in the range of 0.1 to 10  $\mu\text{m}$  in diameter are used and not sufficiently small to the wavelength of light, so that light scattering on the surface occurs and a matted appearance is observed. Of these, for ultrafine particles in the range of 0.1 to 1  $\mu\text{m}$  in diameter, a considerably reduced glossy surface in ~~matt~~ matte may be obtained, but normally a

secondary aggregation of particles takes place so that the surface cannot be made so smooth. Besides, when a dispersant or the like is added to the coating liquid to prevent this aggregation, the absorptivity of ink or the stability of dye-molecules are often damaged.--

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 17, line 14, and ending at line 25, as follows.

--Thermoplastic resin particles of vinyl chloride-vinyl acetate copolymer, with an average diameter of  $0.5\ \mu\text{m}$  ~~was~~ were used to carry out the ink-jet recording and the formation of a protective layer by means of the apparatus shown in FIG. 1. The temperature of the heating and pressurizing roller 107 during the fixation was set to  $140^{\circ}\text{C}$ , the surface roughness  $R_a$  of the heating and pressurizing roller 107 on the side of the protective laser was set to  $0.7\ \mu\text{m}$  and silicone rubber was employed as releasable material for the surface. As a result, recorded images having an excellent glossiness were obtained.--